

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

1. (Currently Amended) An elevator group control apparatus for an elevator system where a plurality of cars can move in each shaft independently of each other, comprising:

a destination floor registration device which is installed at each hall and ~~can register registers~~ destination floors and indicates to passengers which cars will respectively respond to serve ~~for the~~ registered destination floors;

zone setting means for setting priority zones and a shared zone ~~to~~for upper cars and ~~for lower cars~~;

entrance judgment means for judging whether entrance of the shared zone set by the zone setting means ~~is allowed to be entered~~ by an upper car or a lower car is permitted;

safety standby means for putting a car on standby based on ~~the~~a judgment result of the entrance judgment means;

withdrawal means for withdrawing a car to a withdrawal floor, as necessary, after a service is completed by the car;

assignment candidate selecting means for selecting a car as a candidate for assignment to a destination call generated at a hall if ~~it is judged~~, according to the destination to be served by each car and the zones set ~~to~~for each car, ~~that~~ the car would cause neither a collision nor a safety stop; and

assignment means for finally determining which car to assign based on ~~the~~ selection ~~result of~~by the assignment candidate selecting means.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The elevator group control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said destination floor registration device includes:

destination floor registration buttons to respectively register destination floors; and

response car indication panels ~~placed~~ respectively placed adjacent to the destination floor registration buttons.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The elevator group control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the zone setting by~~ said zone setting means ~~is such that~~sets:

a lobby floor and lower floors ~~are set as~~ the priority zone of the lower cars~~;~~,

uppermost floors, which account for about ~~a one-~~half of the total number of floors ~~are set as~~ the priority zone of the upper cars~~;~~, and

~~the~~ remaining intermediary floors ~~are set as~~ a shared zone.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The elevator group control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, if ~~the other~~ a first car is present in the shared zone when a second car reaches an entrance judgment floor, said entrance judgment means decides to stops ~~said the~~ first car at the entrance judgment floor if the ~~other~~ second car is coming closer to ~~said the~~ first car and decides to let ~~said~~ permits the first car through to pass if the ~~other~~ second car is moving in the same direction as ~~said the~~ first car.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The elevator group control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, upon completion of a service by a car, said safety standby means puts the car immediately on standby with the door closed if the car is present in the priority zone and withdraws the car to a certain floor in the priority zone if the car is present in the shared zone.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The elevator group control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said assignment candidate selecting means judges whether a car is scheduled to re-enter the shared zone and, if it is judged that the car is scheduled to re-enter, leaves the car as a candidate for assignment.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The elevator group control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said assignment candidate selecting means judges whether a car must re-enter the shared zone to serve a new destination call and, if it is judged that the car must not re-enter, leaves the car as a candidate for assignment.